

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An objective optical system configured to be ~~suitable to be implemented at~~ in a tip of an endoscope, comprising:

a first lens unit having a first lens barrel and a first optical system including a plurality of lens elements assembled in said first lens barrel; and

a second lens unit having a second lens barrel, engaged to said first lens barrel, and a second optical system including a plurality of lens elements.

2. (Currently Amended) The objective optical system according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit is provided with a fixing unit that fixes said first optical system to said first lens barrel, said second lens barrel being assembled to said first lens barrel, said fixing unit being interposed between said first lens barrel and said second lens barrel to define a clearance therebetween.

3. (Currently Amended) The objective optical system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first lens unit and said second lens unit includes an alignment lens movable in a direction perpendicular to the an optical axis thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The objective optical system according to claim 3, wherein said alignment lens is included in said first optical system, said first lens barrel being formed with a plurality of holes through which parts of a circumferential surface of said alignment lens ~~is seen~~ are exposed.

5. (Original) The objective optical system according to claim 4, wherein said alignment lens is movably accommodated in said first lens barrel, said alignment lens being moved by pins inserted through said plurality of holes, respectively.

6. (Currently Amended) The objective optical system according to claim 3, wherein said alignment lens is ~~configured to be most~~ more sensitive ~~with respect~~ to an alignment error ~~among~~ than all of the plurality of lenses lens elements included in said first optical system.

7. (Currently Amended) The objective optical system according to claim 3, wherein said alignment lens is ~~configured to be most~~ more sensitive ~~with respect~~ to an alignment error ~~among all~~ than all of the lenses lens elements included in said objective optical system.

8. (Original) The objective optical system according to claim 7, wherein said alignment lens is a cemented lens.

9. (Original) The objective optical system according to claim 1, wherein said first lens barrel is attached to said second lens barrel by a screw connection.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling an objective optical system that is ~~suitable~~ configured to be implemented at a tip of an endoscope, the method comprising:

forming a first optical system by assembling a first plurality of lenses in a first lens barrel, the first lens barrel being formed with a plurality of holes on a circumferential surface thereof, the plurality of holes allowing access to a predetermined one of the first plurality of lenses in the first lens barrel;

forming a second optical system by assembling a second plurality of lenses in a second lens barrel which is to be coupled to the first lens barrel;

inserting rods through the plurality of holes to move the predetermined one of the first plurality of lenses in the first lens barrel to adjust an alignment thereof;

fixing the predetermined one of the first plurality of lenses to the first lens barrel; and

coupling the first lens barrel and the second lens barrel ~~with maintaining a coaxial state of an optical axis of~~ such that the first optical system and ~~an optical axis of~~ the second optical system have a common optical axis.

11. (New) The objective optical system according to claim 1, wherein a threaded portion is provided on an inner surface of the first lens barrel which engages with a screw provided on an outer surface of the second lens barrel.